

REMARKS

Applicants have amended Claim 1 and cancelled Claims 4 and 5. Support for the amendment can be found generally throughout the Specification, specifically at page 4, line 30 - page 5, line 12. Applicants submit no new matter has been added by the present amendment.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

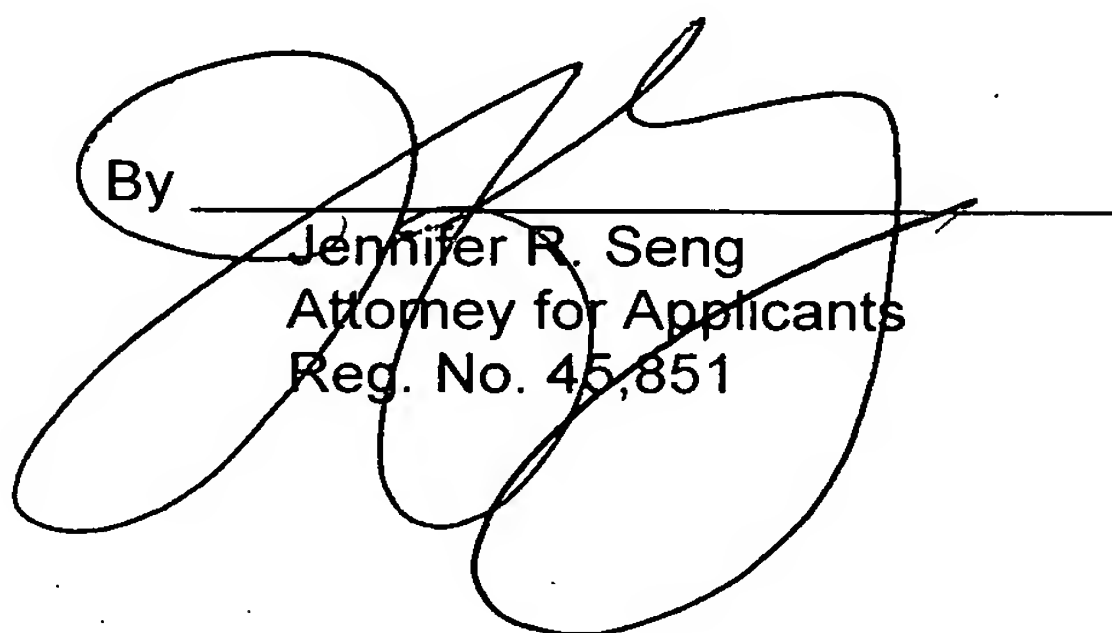
Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yarnell, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,610,217). Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection.

Applicants submit that in order to anticipate a claim, the cited prior art reference must teach each and every element of the claimed invention. Applicants submit that Yarnell, et al. does not teach each and every element of the invention. The present invention includes an article which comprises a salt selected from the group consisting of sodium carbonate, sodium-stearate, a metal salt of carbonic acid, EDTA, phosphoric acid and mixtures thereof.

In the alternative, Yarnell, et al. discloses ethylene alpha olefin belting which is comprised of an elastomer which is reinforces with a filler and metal salts of acids such, as for example, acrylic, methacrylic, maleic, fumaric, ethacrylic, vinyl-acrylic, itaconic, methyl itaconic, aconitic, methyl aconitic, crotonic, alpha-methylcrotonic, cinnamic, and 2,4-dihydroxy cinnamic acids. These salts may be of zinc, cadmium, calcium, magnesium, sodium or aluminum, and are preferably those of zinc. See column 6, line 60 - column 7, line 12. Yarnell, et al. does not teach or suggest an article which comprises a salt selected from the group consisting of **sodium carbonate, sodium-stearate, a metal salt of carbonic acid, EDTA, phosphoric acid and mixtures thereof.**

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Yarnell, et al. does not teach each and every element of the claimed invention, and therefore, Applicants request withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

Respectfully submitted,

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